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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KDEM PGOV PREL AF DA

SUBJECT: DENMARK TO SUPPORT AFGHAN ELECTIONS

REF: SECSTATE 108855

(U) Poloff delivered reftel to Stephen Schoenemann, MFA's Asia and Latin America Department Section Head, on October $\underline{\P}22$. Schoenemann stated that Denmark places great emphasis on the upcoming elections in Afghanistan. The Nordic countries, Denmark included, are cooperating closely on support for the elections and share a joint Nordic seat on the Steering Committee for the ELECT project. Denmark's support to the UNDP ELECT program has been 3.7 million DKK (approx. \$629,000) for the 2007-2008 period. Denmark also provided some bilateral support to media organizations prior to and during the last elections. Denmark's support to the upcoming elections has not been finalized. However, the Danes anticipate approximately 20 million DKK (approx \$3,400,000) for 2009-2010. Denmark does not technically pool funding with other Nordic countries but it will regard the contribution as part of a joint Nordic contribution to the elections. CATN